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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/014,380	10/26/2001	Baoquan Zhang	1711	1049

7590

08/26/2004

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EXAMINER

SING, SIMON P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2645

DATE MAILED: 08/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/014,380

Applicant(s)

ZHANG, BAOQUAN

Examiner

Simon Sing

Art Unit

2645

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 June 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 and 32-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 and 32-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-12 and 32-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over White et al. US 6,069,890 in view of Brown US 6014,711 and further in view of Freeman US 6,020,980.

1.1 Regarding claim 1, White discloses an Internet telephone service in figure 8. White teaches that a message sender can leave a voice message to a recipient through the Internet. The sender dials a prefix *84 (management code) to signal an internet communication (column 16, lines 3-13), and a destination telephone number in order to send a recorded voice message to the recipient through Internet (column 16, lines 14-45). White also teaches that a voice message in Internet protocol can also be converted to text and send to a recipient as an e-mail message (column 11, lines 50-55). White fails to teach converting the destination telephone number to an e-mail address for sending said e-mail message. White also fails to teach sending the e-mail message to a plurality of e-mail addresses.

However, Brown discloses a method for converting a voice mail to e-mail. Brown teaches recording a voice message, and entering a destination telephone number of a recipient, a voice profile for Internet mail (VPIM) voice messaging system (VMS) 18 (figure 2) converts the voice mail to an e-mail message (column 4, lines 33-46), and using the recipient's destination telephone number, retrieves an e-mail address from a database (LDAP 16) (column 4, lines 47-63; column 1, lines 36-51).

In addition, Freeman discloses a method for sending a FAX message as an e-mail message. Freeman teaches dialing a recipient's telephone number (column 11, lines 14-27), mapping the recipient's telephone number to a recipient's e-mail address by a database (subscriber directory) 126 (column 11, lines 60-67; column 12, lines 1-6), converting the FAX message to an e-mail message (column 12, lines 7-19), and sends the e-mail message to the recipient's e-mail address (column 12, lines 25-30). Freeman further teaches that the e-mail message can be sent to multiple e-mail addresses (column 9, lines 30-33; column 10, lines 6-9).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the White's reference with the teachings of Brown and Freeman, so that e-mail addresses would have been obtained by mapping a destination telephone number to e-mail addresses in Internet address database 112, because such a modification would have enabled a system to obtain the e-mail addresses of a recipient from a destination telephone number, and would have clarified the teaching of White for how to send a voice mail as an e-mail message to a recipient.

1.2 Regarding claim 2, as discussed in claim 1, the voice mail system 574 of the modified White's reference has a computer readable medium for storing instructions to execute the method of claim 1.

1.3 Regarding claim 3, as discussed in claim 1, a voice message is converted to e-mail (text) message and send to each one of the plurality of e-mail addresses.

1.4 Regarding claim 4, White teaches converting a voice mail to text and presenting the text to a recipient as an e-mail (column 11, lines 50-55).

1.5 Regarding claim 5, White teaches that the destination directory number maybe coded (appended) into the destination directory number dialed (column 16, lines 10-13; column 8, lines 30-32).

1.6 Regarding claim 6, since a MIN is a telephone number of a mobile (or cellular) phone, and the LEC 102 (White, figure 8) is capable of connecting to a cellular network. Therefore, it is inherent that the destination telephone number can be a MIN.

1.7 Regarding claim 7, as discussed in claim 1, the second type of a plurality of destination identifiers are e-mail addresses.

1.8 Regarding claim 8, White teaches that switching system 514 receives a call request from the caller (column 16, lines 3-8, 28-52).

1.9 Regarding claim 9, it is inherent that that switching system 514 has a controller for routing the caller to voice mail system 574 (voice command platform) for prompting the caller to leave a voice message (column 16, lines 3-8).

1.10 Regarding claim 10, White teaches that the voice mail prompted the caller to leave a voice message (column 16, lines 14-17, 23-24).

1.11 Regarding claims 11 and 12, the White's reference, modified by Brown and Freeman, teaches converting a telephone number to a plurality of e-mail addresses by Internet address database 112 (column 7, lines 65-67; column 16, lines 53-61). The database 112 may be located in an ISCP (service control point) or an Intelligent Peripheral (column 8, lines 7-9).

1.12 Regarding claim 32, White discloses an Internet telephone service in figure 8. White teaches that a message sender can leave a voice message to a recipient through the Internet. The sender dials a prefix *84 (management code) to signal an internet communication (column 16, lines 3-13), and a destination telephone number in order for a voicemail system 574 to send a recorded voice message to the recipient through Internet (column 16, lines 14-45). White also teaches that a voice message in Internet

protocol can also be converted to text and send to a recipient as an e-mail message (column 11, lines 50-55). White fails to teach converting the destination telephone number to an e-mail address for sending said e-mail message. White also fails to teach sending the e-mail message to a plurality of e-mail addresses.

However, Brown discloses a method for converting a voice mail to e-mail. Brown teaches recording a voice message, and entering a destination telephone number of a recipient, a voice profile for Internet mail (VPIM) voice messaging system (VMS) 18 (figure 2) converts the voice mail to an e-mail message (column 4, lines 33-46), and using the recipient's destination telephone number, retrieves an e-mail address from a database (LDAP 16) (column 4, lines 47-63; column 1, lines 36-51).

In addition, Freeman discloses a method for sending a FAX message as an e-mail message. Freeman teaches dialing a recipient's telephone number (column 11, lines 14-27), mapping the recipient's telephone number to a recipient's e-mail address by a database (subscriber directory) 126 (column 11, lines 60-67; column 12, lines 1-6), converting the FAX message to an e-mail message (column 12, lines 7-19), and sends the e-mail message to the recipient's e-mail address (column 12, lines 25-30). Freeman further teaches that the e-mail message can be sent to multiple e-mail addresses (column 9, lines 30-33; column 10, lines 6-9).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the White's reference with the teachings of Brown and Freeman, so that e-mail addresses would have been obtained by mapping a destination telephone number to e-mail addresses in Internet address database 112,

because such a modification would have enabled a system to obtain the e-mail addresses of a recipient from a destination telephone number, and would have clarified the teaching of White for how to send a voice mail as an e-mail message to a recipient.

1.13 Regarding claim 33, as discussed in claim 32, White teaches a voicemail system 574 for recording a voicemail message.

1.14 Regarding claim 34, White teaches querying an ISCP for instruction to convert a destination telephone number to an Internet address.

1.15 Regarding claim 35, an Intelligent service Control Point (ISCP) inherently comprises a service controller.

1.16 Regarding claim 36, as discussed in claim 32, a caller dials a prefix and a destination telephone number.

1.17 Regarding claim 37, as discussed in claim 32, White teaches converting a voicemail message to text and then to an e-mail message.

2. Claims 13-23, 25, 38 and 42-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over White et al. US 6,069,890 in view of Brown US 6014,711 and further in view of Agraharam et al. US 6,085,231.

2.1 Regarding claim 13, White discloses an Internet telephone service in figure 8. Whit teaches that a message sender can leave a voice message to a recipient through the Internet. The sender dials a prefix *84 (management code) to signal an internet communication (column 16, lines 3-13), and a destination telephone number in order to send a recorded voice message to the recipient through Internet (column 16, lines 14-45). White also teaches that a voice message in Internet protocol can also be converted to text and send to a recipient as an e-mail message (column 11, lines 50-55). White fails to teach converting the destination telephone number to an e-mail address for sending said e-mail message. White also fails to teach that the destination telephone number associated with a plurality of e-mail addresses.

However, Brown discloses a method for converting a voice mail to e-mail. Brown teaches recording a voice message, and entering a destination telephone number of a recipient, a voice profile for Internet mail (VPIM) voice messaging system (VMS) 18 (figure 2) converts the voice mail to an e-mail message (column 4, lines 33-46), and using the recipient's destination telephone number, retrieves an e-mail address from a database (LDAP 16) (column 4, lines 47-63; column 1, lines 36-51).

In addition, Agarharam discloses a voice mail to e-mail system in figure 1. Agarharam teaches receiving a voicemail message for a subscriber after a caller

dialed the telephone number of a subscriber (column 2, lines 32-42), converting the voicemail message to text and then to an e-mail message (column 2, lines 43-56; column 3, lines 16-20), and converting subscriber's telephone number (723-555-6543) to a given e-mail address (jbrown@abc.com) through an alias e-mail address (7235556543@callatt.com) (column 2, lines 57-67; column 3, lines 1-12).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the White's reference with the teachings of Brown and Agraharam, so that a given e-mail addresses would have been obtained by mapping a destination telephone number to at least two e-mail addresses in the Internet address database 112, because such a modification would have enabled a system to obtain an e-mail address of a recipient from a destination telephone number, and would have clarified the teaching of White for how to send a voice mail as an e-mail message to a recipient.

2.2 Regarding claim 14, as discussed in claim 13, the voice mail system 574 of the modified White's reference has a computer readable medium for storing instructions to execute the method of claim 13.

2.3 Regarding claim 15, since a MIN is a telephone number of a mobile (or cellular) phone, and the LEC 102 (White, figure 8) is capable of connecting to a cellular network. Therefore, it is inherent that the destination telephone number can be a MIN.

2.4 Regarding claim 16, White further teaches:

sending an inquiry message to an ISCP (service control point) for routing instruction (column 16, lines 28-33);

the ISCP, including a database 112 (column 8, lines 6-8), converting the destination directory number into an Internet address (e-mail address) and instructing the LEC 102 to rout the call through Gateway 104 and Internet 106 (network entity) (column 16, lines 33-61); and

prompting the caller to leave a message (by voice mail system 574) as discussed in claim 13.

2.5 Regarding claim 17, White teaches routing the call to a voice mail system (voice command platform) 576 (column 16, lines 53-61).

2.6 Regarding claim 18, as discussed in claim 13, the modified voice mail system (voice command platform) 574 converts the destination directory number into en e-mail address.

2.7 Regarding claim 19, it is inherent that the modified voice mail system 574 has a controller for converting the destination directory number into en e-mail address.

2.8 Regarding claim 20,as discussed in claim 13, the modified White's system, teaches providing a given e-mail address to the voice mail system, receiving a voice

message from a caller and sending the voice message as an e-mail message to the called party's e-mail address.

2.9 Regarding claim 21, White discloses an Internet telephone service in figure 8. White teaches that a first subscriber can leave a voice message to a second subscriber through the Internet. White teaches a switching system 514 (first network work entity) for receiving a call request to connect to a second subscriber entity (voice mail system 576). The call request including a prefix *84 (management code) to signal an internet communication and a destination telephone number (destination identity) in order to send a recorded voice message to the second subscriber through Internet (column 16, lines 6-13). White also teaches an Internet address database 112, located in an ISCP (second network entity) for converting the destination telephone number to an Internet address, the ISCP also provides routing instruction for sending send recorded voice message (column 16, lines 14-45). Voice mail system 574 (third network entity) prompts a first subscriber to leave a voice message to be sent through said Internet address (column 16, lines 14-17). White also teaches that a voice message in Internet protocol can also be converted to text and send to a recipient as an e-mail message (column 11, lines 50-55). White fails to teach converting the destination telephone number to an e-mail address (second identity type) for sending said e-mail message. White also fails to teach that the destination telephone number associated with a plurality of e-mail addresses.

However, Brown discloses a system for converting a voice mail to e-mail in figure 1. Brown teaches a recording a voice message, and entering a destination telephone number of a recipient, a voice profile for Internet mail (VPIM) voice messaging system (VMS) 18 converts the voice mail to an e-mail message (column 4, lines 33-46), and using the recipient's destination telephone number, retrieves an e-mail address from a database (LDAP 16) (column 4, lines 47-63; column 1, lines 36-51).

In addition, Agaraharam discloses a voice mail to e-mail system in figure 1. Agaraharam teaches receiving a voicemail message for a subscriber after a caller dialed the telephone number of a subscriber (column 2, lines 32-42), converting the voicemail message to text and then to an e-mail message (column 2, lines 43-56; column 3, lines 16-20), and converting subscriber's telephone number (723-555-6543) to a given e-mail address (jbrrown@abc.com) through an alias e-mail address (7235556543@callatt.com) (column 2, lines 57-67; column 3, lines 1-12).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the White's reference with the teachings of Brown and Agraharam, so that the voicemail system 574 would have converted an voicemail message to e-mail message, and a given e-mail addresses would have been obtained by mapping a destination telephone number to a plurality of e-mail addresses in the Internet address database 112, because such a modification would have enabled a system to obtained an e-mail address of a recipient from a destination telephone number, and would have clarified the teaching of White for how to send a voice mail as an e-mail message to a recipient.

2.10 Regarding claim 22, as discussed in claim 21, the first network entity comprises a switching system 514, the second network entity comprises a service controller (ISCP), and the third network entity comprises a voicemail system 574.

2.11 Regarding claim 23, White teaches that the voicemail system 574 receives a voicemail message and converts the voicemail message to an e-mail message for sending to a second subscriber's e-mail address.

2.12 Regarding claim 25, as discussed in claim 21, the second identity type is a plurality of e-mail addresses.

2.13 Regarding claim 38, as discussed in claim 13, Agraharam teaches selecting an actual e-mail address (jbrown@abc.com) from an alias e-mail address (7325556543@callattt.com).

2.14 Regarding claim 42, the given e-mail address is based on the prefix which enables sending a voicemail message as an e-mail message.

2.15 Regarding claim 43, White discloses an Internet telephone service in figure 8. Whit teaches that a message sender can leave a voice message to a recipient through the Internet. The sender dials a prefix *84 (management code), the prefix comprises an

asterisk and an indicia 84 to signal an internet communication (column 16, lines 3-13), and a destination telephone number in order for a voicemail system 574 to send a recorded voice message to the recipient through Internet (column 16, lines 14-45).

White also teaches that a voice message in Internet protocol can also be converted to text and send to a recipient as an e-mail message (column 11, lines 50-55). White fails to teach converting the destination telephone number to an e-mail address for sending said e-mail message. White also fails to teach sending the e-mail message to a plurality of e-mail addresses.

However, Brown discloses a system for converting a voice mail to e-mail in figure 1. Brown teaches a recording a voice message, and entering a destination telephone number of a recipient, a voice profile for Internet mail (VPIM) voice messaging system (VMS) 18 converts the voice mail to an e-mail message (column 4, lines 33-46), and using the recipient's destination telephone number, retrieves an e-mail address from a database (LDAP 16) (column 4, lines 47-63; column 1, lines 36-51).

In addition, Agaraharam discloses a voice mail to e-mail system in figure 1. Agaraharam teaches receiving a voicemail message for a subscriber after a caller dialed the telephone number of a subscriber (column 2, lines 32-42), converting the voicemail message to text and then to an e-mail message (column 2, lines 43-56; column 3, lines 16-20), and converting subscriber's telephone number (723-555-6543) to a given e-mail address (jbrrown@abc.com) through an alias e-mail address (7235556543@callatt.com) (column 2, lines 57-67; column 3, lines 1-12).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the White's reference with the teachings of Brown and Agraharam, so that the voicemail system 574 would have converted an voicemail message to e-mail message, and a given e-mail addresses would have been obtained by mapping a destination telephone number to a plurality of e-mail addresses in the Internet address database 112, because such a modification would have enabled a system to obtained an e-mail address of a recipient from a destination telephone number, and would have clarified the teaching of White for how to send a voice mail as an e-mail message to a recipient.

2.16 Regarding claim 44, as discussed in claim 43, the indicia in the management code directs conversion of a voicemail message to an e-mail message, and sending the e-mail message to a given e-mail address (jbrown@abc.com).

3. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over White et al. US 6,069,890 in view of Brown US 6014,711 and further in view of Agraharam et al. US 6,085,231 and further in view of Smith et al. US 6,333,973.

The White's reference, modified by Brown and Agrqmharam, teaches converting a voicemail message to an e-mail message and transmitting said e-mail message to an e-mail address converted from a destination telephone number, but fails to explicitly teach that the destination number is a mobile telephone number (MIN).

However, since a MIN is telephone number and Smith teaches that a caller calls a subscriber's mobile telephone number to leave a voice message (column 3, lines 48-54; column 5, lines 15-24), therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the White's reference, which was modified by Brown and Agraharam, with the teachings of Smith, so that the destination telephone number would have been a mobile telephone number (MIN), because such a modification would have included mobile communications in the modified system.

4. Claims 39-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over White et al. US 6,069,890 in view of Brown US 6014,711 and further in view of Agraharam et al. US 6,085,231 and further in view of Gross et al. US '5,555,346.

The White's reference, modified by Brown and Agrqmharam, teaches converting a voicemail message to an e-mail message and transmitting said e-mail message to an e-mail address converted from a destination telephone number, but fails to a set subscriber preference rules, such as based on a pre-set schedule for sending said e-mail message.

However, Gross discloses a method for a user defined rule-based messaging system (column 4, lines 29-39). Gross teaches managing an incoming electronic mail on a based on a set of rules, such as forwarding said electronic mail to different addresses base on time (column 11, lines 6-12, 54-61; column 12, lines 4-10).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the White's reference, which was modified by Brown and Agraharam, with the teachings of Gross, so that an e-mail message would have been sent to different e-mail addresses base on a set subscriber preferred rules, such time of a day or day of a week, because such a modification would have enabled the modified system to forward an e-mail message to an e-mail address preferred by the subscriber.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-25, 32-44 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion


6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the

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shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Simon Sing whose telephone number is (703) 305-3221. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang, can be reached at (703) 305-4895. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4750.



S.S.

08/16/2004

FAN TSANG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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